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OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

October 2011

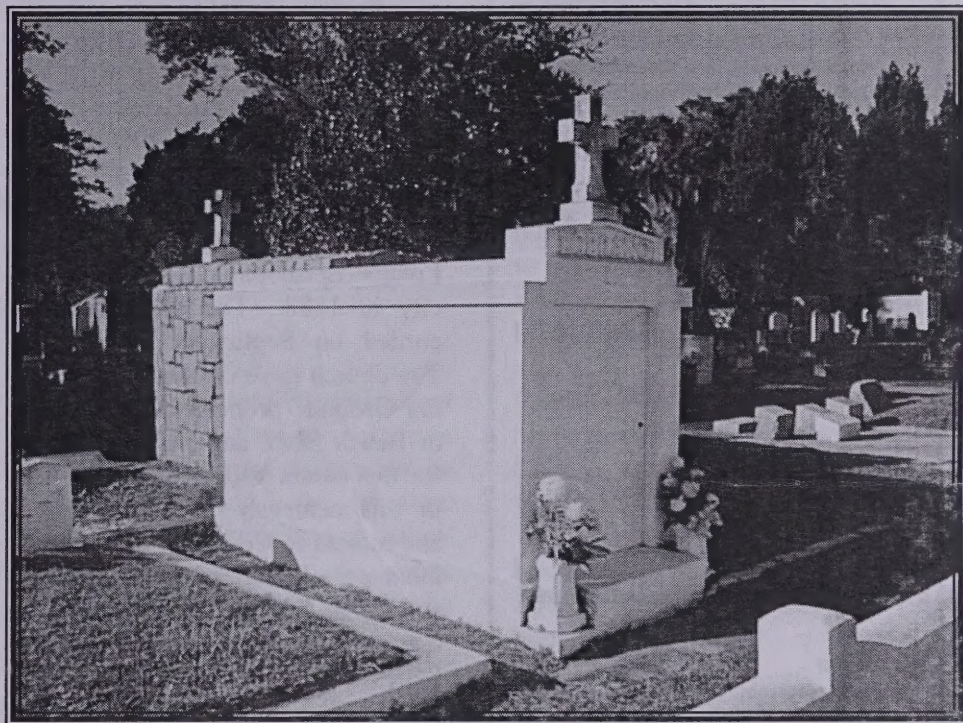
COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

"Once upon a midnight dreary,
while I pondered, weak and weary,
Over many a quaint and curious
volume of forgotten lore,/ While I
nodded, nearly napping, suddenly
there came a tapping,/ As of some-
one gently rapping, rapping at my
chamber door./ 'Tis some visitor,' I
muttered, 'tapping at my chamber
door—/ Only this, and nothing
more.'" So begins Edgar Allan
Poe's "The Raven." What did the
visitor want? Perhaps he was invit-
ing the narrator of the poem to the
18th Annual Cemetery Tour, which
will be held on Monday, October
31, 2011, at Cedar Rest Cemetery
in the 200 block of South Second
Street in Bay Saint Louis, MS.
The fun begins at 5:30 P.M. and
runs until 8:00 P. M.

Everyone is invited to assem-
ble at the main entrance to the
cemetery for an exciting, informa-
tive historical tour. Guides will
lead visitors through the cemetery
to meet the spirits of long deceased
local citizens who will recount in-
teresting events of their lives. Ad-
mission to the tour is free, but do-
nations are graciously accepted.

After the tour everyone is in-
vited to the Lobrano House around
the corner at 108 Cue St. for
punch, cookies, and other treats.

As is our usual custom, we will
not have a luncheon this month so
that we can devote all of our ener-
gies to the Cemetery Tour.



A Brief History of Cedar Rest Cemetery

By
Eddie Coleman

Bounded by Second,
Easterbrook, and Toulme Streets,
Cedar Rest Cemetery became the
property of the City of Bay St.
Louis in three separate deeds at
different times.

The chain of ownership of
the land begins with the United
States and from there passes to
Elihu Carver, Millette Lassassieur,
Peter Surrogate, Madam Charlo,

and John B. Lardasse. These people
held most of the land on which the
city of Bay St. Louis presently sits.
From there Madam Charlo deeded a
parcel of her land, which the ceme-
tery now covers, to Euphrone Ne-
caise, John B. Necaise, Zeni Necaise,
and Celeste LaFontaine. From there
this parcel went to Publius Rutilius
Rufus Pray, from him to J. B.
Toulme, John Martin, and John
Magilly and then in a partition by
Judge J. W. Winningham (Probate
Court) to J. B. Toulme.

The northern section was
one of six plots given to the city by
Jacques Baptiste (J. B.) Toulme. In
1860 he also deeded a section south

THE

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OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Eddie Coleman, Editor
Pat Fuchs, PublisherPublished monthly by the
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“TO PRESERVE THE GENERAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY AND TO PRESERVE THE KATE LOBRANO HOUSE AND COLLECTIONS THEREIN; TO RESEARCH AND INTERPRET LIFE IN HANCOCK COUNTY; AND TO ENCOURAGE AN APPRECIATION OF AND INTEREST IN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION.”

of the original cemetery to St. Luke's Episcopal Church. J. B. Toulme II and his only son, John Victor (J. V.) were mayors of the city. J. V. Toulme, his three wives and some of his children are buried in Cedar Rest. According to the *Sea Coast Gazette*, a local newspaper in 1880, J. B. I and his wife are buried in a crypt with a spire, facing west across from the bathtub. In reality the bathtub was a watering trough for horses when Bay St. Louis was a horse and wagon town. Originally it sat in front of the first courthouse in Bay St. Louis.

The middle section of Cedar Rest was a swap between St. Luke's Episcopal Church and the city in 1888. (The deed was recorded on September 13, 1895.) The church gave up the “Old Burying Ground” property at the corner of Beach Blvd. and St. Charles St. for this center section. The bodies in this cemetery were disinterred and moved to Cedar Rest. Some of them were Indians, and for this reason Cedar Rest is on the list of historical graveyards of the United States.

The south section of the cemetery was given to the city by Joan Newman Seal on November 20, 1891. Also at the south end sits McDonald's warehouse on a site she deeded to the Baptist Church.

The oldest grave in the cemetery is that of E. Meggs, who died on May 15, 1815. However, the marker is gone. The oldest **marked** grave is that of a Native American, Powhattan Robertson, who died as a young woman on October 1, 1820.

The plots in the cemetery were given to families in the manner of homesteads: free, but with the responsibility of “claiming” the plot by physical markings. Although the city of Bay St. Louis has assumed the responsibility of keep-

ing the grass cut, etc., the individual families are responsible for keeping the gravesites in order.

In 1993 the Hancock County Historical Society began a tradition that is the highlight of Halloween celebrations in Bay Saint Louis, in Hancock County, and along the Mississippi Gulf Coast—the Annual Cemetery Tour.

Originated to discourage vandalism of the cemetery by mischievous ghosts and goblins, the event has other objectives: to preserve and teach the history of the area; to accept donations to finance the restoration of graves and headstones; and to serve as the October function of the society. The cemetery tour has been presented each year since 1993 except in 2005 because of Hurricane Katrina.

SOURCE:

Cedar Rest Cemetery file

Hilliker, Meg. Letter to Mayor Victor Frankiewicz, City of Bay St. Louis, August 7, 1985.

**Cook's Praline & Gift
Shop**

A Reminiscence

By

Margaret Prevou

*[Cook's Praline & Gift Shop
opened in July 1941 at 311**Ulman Avenue, Bay St. Louis under
the ownership of Lester G. and Ida
M. Cook.]*

We were living on Main St., Bay St. Louis, MS, at this time. My brother, Lester, was working after school for Mrs. Gertie Banderet selling pralines and pecans in front of her restaurant. He would stand beside the street (which was



Cook's Praline & Gift Shop at 311 Ulman Avenue

The first shop is visible in the background on the right side of the picture with the sign "Pecans."

Hwy 90) and would call to the people/cars passing by to buy pralines and pecans. It was a very good profit on the items so my mother, who was a beautician and a marvelous cook, decided that she could make the pralines, and we could have our own business.

My father was in the construction business. My parents rented a house on Ulman Avenue (Hwy 90), mother perfected her own recipe, and we were in business. Times were very hard at this time, and as I remember, we had exactly \$2.50 to spare to buy ingredients for the pralines. It bought five pounds of sugar, one pound of unshelled pecans, and the other ingredients for the candy. One of us would ride our bicycle down the street to another candy shop, buy a pound of pecans, ride back home, and crack and shell the pecans to make another batch (as it was called) of candy. Then when we sold enough to buy some more ingredients, we repeated the action, and from then on we were on our way to a prosperous business.

Then World War II began. Dad had built a small shop in front of our home, and we worked from this shop for several years when he enlarged the shop. By this time other items had been added including conch shells, dolls, etc., made from all types of shells along with all types of souvenirs and many other homemade candies. All of these candies were Mother's own creations and most delicious. The pralines, approximately three to four inches round, sold for ten cents each or three for a quarter at that time.

When the war began, sugar and other items were rationed, and we were allowed a very small amount of these items compared to the amount we were used to having, but we were able to continue to run the business as there was not as much traffic because of gas rationing, etc. By this time almost everyone was busy with the war effort, and my father worked the midnight shift at what is now the Naval Construction Battalion Center (Seabee Base) at Gulfport, and my brother had been drafted. Mother cracked

pecans and kept the gift shop open during the day, and we made candy and shelled pecans at night, usually until midnight and up again at 4:00 A. M. before going off to school. Mom would keep the shop open, I would make some of the candy after school, and my sister would cook and maintain the housekeeping. It worked well, and we didn't mind doing our part as it meant my brother and the others would come home sooner.

After the war ended, my parents bought property across the street on the south side of Ulman and built a larger gift shop with living quarters and gave the small shop to my husband and me. After my brother returned home, he rented a lot across the street from our shop and built a gift shop which he continued to operate until he resumed his education at Perkinson Junior College and Mississippi State University.

When the new Hwy 90 bridge was built north of Ulman Avenue (1953), Mom and Dad bought property on Hwy 90 east of Ocean Springs, MS, and built the largest of the gift shops with living quarters in the back, keeping everything under one roof. The property was approximately two acres with pecan trees on it. Dad planted fruit trees and a large vegetable garden. They continued to operate the business until their failing health made it necessary for them to close it and move back to Bay St. Louis to live with my family in 1980.

I am very proud of this part of the history of my family and the fact that this was accomplished by determination, very little money, lots of hard work by all members of the family, and faith in our ability to become a success. From \$2.50 in 1941 to 1995 when the property was sold, we realized a nice return on the initial investment and have the

secret recipes to begin again if we should want to do so.

SOURCE:

Article and picture submitted to the Bay St. Louis Historical Society by Margaret Cook Prevou, daughter of Lester and Ida Cook.

World War II Newspaper Clippings

By
Eddie Coleman

A couple of weeks ago the Historical Society was given several newspaper clippings of soldiers serving in World War II. If you would like a copy of the clipping, you may obtain one at the Society. The following is a list of the soldiers mentioned in these articles.

Ansley, Walter S.
Bagley, Howard F.
Banderet, Carl J.
Bermond, Jr., Rene Richard
Bermond, Eugene J.
Bermond-Hobbs Brothers
Bermond, Harold
Bermond, Shelton
Bilbo, James Woodrow
Bilbo, James L.
Bourgeois, Morris J.
Bourgeois, Stanley R.
Buehler, Otto J.
Carco, Jerry V.
Crutchfield, Bruce
Cuevas, George L.
Cuevas, Vernon
Dedeaux Brothers
Dedeaux, Clinton J.
Dedeaux, Clovis
Dedeaux, Elgin
Dedeaux Roy
Favre, Albert J.
Favre Brothers
Favre, Charles J.
Favre, Cobon
Favre, Curtis Blaize
Favre, Eugene T.
Favre, Fabian A.

Favre, Fred
Favre, Joseph E. (Gene)
Favre, Milton J.
Fayard, Ulysse G.
Fitch, Walter
Frierson Brothers (J. Q., Glenn, & Horatio)
Garriga, Emitte
Geoffrey, Horace V.
Haas, Thomas R.
Hobbs, James Joseph
Johnston Brothers (Elden, Robert, R. J.)
Ladner Brothers (Joseph & Leo)
Ladner, E. M.
Ladner, Floyd N.
Ladner, R. J.
LaFontaine, Charlie
LaFontaine, Henry
LaFontaine, Roland
LaFontaine, Russell
Lind, Victor
Little, W. M.
Luc, Forrest
Manieri Brothers (Terrell & Donald)

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Patt Cucullu
Ruth Thompson

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Milam, Ernest
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Necaise, James
Parker, James W.
Perez, Louis
Piazza, Emile
Porter, Edward
Ranson, Louis T.
Richardson, Cynthia Ann
Russ, Howell A.
Saucier Brothers (Archie & Fred)
Scafide, Frances
Schwartz, Charles
Schiro, John
Shaw, Cornelius
Shubert Brothers (Adolph E. & Joseph C.)
Smith, Carl T.
Smith, Howard J.
Soldini, William Turner
Trapani, Frank
Travirca, Chester A.

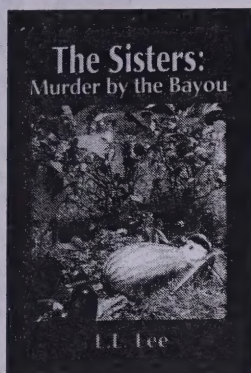
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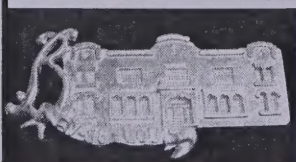
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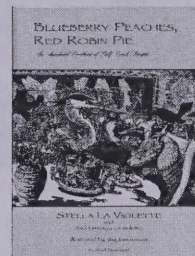
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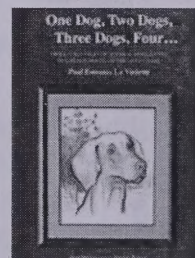


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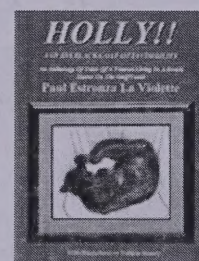
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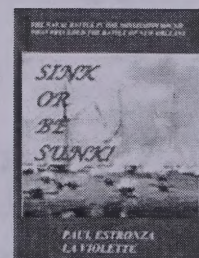
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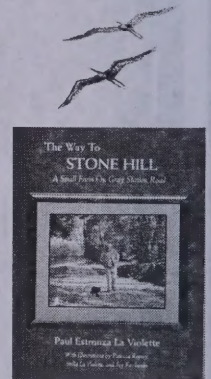
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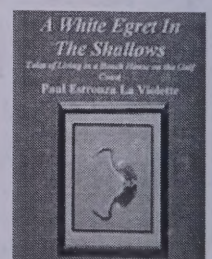
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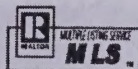
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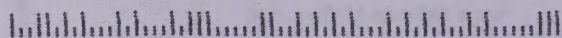
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